

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION**

73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100
Palm Desert, CA 92260

Public Notice 7-15-46
December 9, 2015

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**SPECIAL BOARD ORDER R7-2016-0009
RESCINDING CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ORDER R7-2014-0033
ISSUED TO NATIONAL BEEF CALIFORNIA, LP, OWNER/OPERATOR,
WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY**

National Beef California, LP (NBC), owns a slaughterhouse (Facility) located at 57 Shank Road, Brawley, CA 92227. NBC is a wholly-owned subsidiary of National Beef Packing Company, LLC (headquartered in Kansas City, Missouri), which in turn is a subsidiary of Leucadia National Corporation. It also owns an on-site wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) that provides wastewater treatment and disposal services for the Facility.

On March 20, 2014, the Colorado River Basin Water Board adopted Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) R7-2014-0033 to address ongoing water quality concerns and the announced impending closure of the Facility. The CAO provided NBC two alternatives depending on whether the Facility was to remain in operation. The Discharger decided to close the Facility and it ceased operation in May 2014. Therefore, Alternative 2 (Facility Ceases Operation and All On-site Discharges of Waste) has been in effect since May 2014. NBC has been in compliance with CAO R7-2014-0033 since its adoption by the Colorado River Basin Water Board.

One World Beef, LLC (OWB), submitted an application and Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) for Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs), dated November 25, 2016, for proposed on-site discharges of wastes from the WWTF. OWB has entered into a Purchase and Sales Agreement (Agreement) to purchase the Facility from NBC. The Facility is expected to be sold presently to the Discharger pursuant to the Agreement. Based on the impending sale of its Facility to OWB, NBC has requested, by letter dated December 1, 2015, the Colorado River Basin Water Board rescind the CAO.

If the sale of the Facility materializes as planned, OWB proposes to resume operations at the Facility in February 2016 and discharge wastewater at two locations: (1) to areal groundwater through the three existing unlined wastewater ponds and (2) from the WWTF into the city of Brawley municipal wastewater collection system for further treatment and disposal at the city of Brawley Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The Colorado River Basin Water Board will consider adopting Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order R7-2016-0007 on January 14, 2016, for OWB in order to meet the provisions contained in Division 7 of the California Water Code and regulations adopted thereunder. It will also consider adopting Time Schedule Order (TSO) R7-2016-0008 for OWB on January 14, 2016, pursuant to Sections 13267 and 13300 of the CWC. Under the TSO, OWB must prepare technical reports and bring its onsite discharges of waste into compliance with the WDRs and other requirements described in the TSO. If the WDRs and TSO are adopted by the Colorado River Basin Water Board, it is appropriate for the Board also to consider rescinding the CAO. Staff has drafted a Special Board Order that would rescind CAO R7-2014-0033.

The Colorado River Basin Water Board will proceed with the public hearing on the Special Order as follows:

Date: January 14, 2016
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Colorado River Basin Region Board Room
73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100
Palm Desert, CA 92260.

During the hearing, the public and any other person interested in this matter can provide the Colorado River Basin Water Board with comments on this matter.

Persons wishing to file written comments on or objections to the proposed Special Board Order or any other aspects of this matter are required to do so prior to the public hearing, so that the Colorado River Basin Water Board may consider the comments.

Comments must be mailed to the following address:

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Colorado River Basin Region
73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100
Palm Desert, CA 92260

A copy of the proposed Special Board Order and CAO may be obtained from the Colorado River Basin Water Board office. The proposed Special Board Order and CAO are available via the Internet at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/board_decisions/adopted_orders/

Please contact Doug Wylie at (760) 776-8960 for any questions regarding this matter. Any person who is disabled and requires special accommodations to participate in this Colorado River Basin Water Board meeting, please contact Hilda Vasquez at (760) 346-7491 no later than ten (10) days before the scheduled public hearing.